

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Interview

On April 9, 2004, the Examiner granted a discretionary interview with the undersigned. Discussed in that interview were the above amendments and cited references. As interviews after final are discretionary, Applicant's sincerely appreciate being given the opportunity.

Amendments

The claims are modified in the amendment. More specifically, claims 1, 6, 8, 13, 15 and 20 have been amended. Therefore, claims 1-20 are present for examination. No new matter is added by these amendments. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application as amended.

35 U.S.C. §102 Rejection, Tripp

The Office Action has rejected claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by the cited portions of U.S. Patent No. 6,516,337 to Tripp (hereinafter "Tripp"). The amended claims clearly distinguish Tripp as they autonomously report their local catalogs to the global catalog, whereas Tripp uses a crawling process to gather information for the global catalog. Maintaining the global catalog centrally, as taught in Tripp, is extremely resource inefficient as the central global catalog must crawl each of the remote cites. In contrast, the claimed invention has all the remote cites report in their catalogs such that the global catalog maintains itself without a crawler or spider process. For at least this reason, reconsideration of the outstanding rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

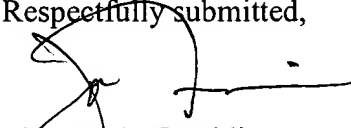
In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

Appl. No. 09/664,294
Amdt. dated May 5, 2004
Preliminary Amendment

PATENT

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas D. Franklin
Reg. No. 43,616

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 303-571-4000
Fax: 415-576-0300
TDF:cmb

60145287 v1